

What is claimed is:

1. An audio playback/recording apparatus comprising:
 an audio input processing section, which receives
 analog audio data, and converts said analog audio data to
 5 digital audio data;
 a playback/recording processing section having a
 compression section which compresses said digital audio data
 output from said audio input processing section and stores
 said compressed digital audio data and attribution data
 10 indicating a type of a compression of said compressed digital
 audio data into a RAM, and an expansion section which
 decompresses compressed digital audio data stored in said RAM
 based on attribution data indicating a type of a compression
 of said compressed digital audio data stored in said RAM;
 15 an audio output processing section, which receives
 decompressed digital audio data output from said
 playback/recording processing section, converts said
 decompressed digital audio data to analog audio data, and
 outputs said analog audio data to an output apparatus;
 20 an external recording circuit section, which records
 compressed digital audio data stored in said RAM into an
 external recording medium, and reads out compressed digital
 audio data from said external recording medium, and stores
 said readout data into said RAM.
 25 2. An audio playback/recording apparatus according to
 claim 1, further comprising a general-purpose interface
 circuit section, which transfers digital audio data and
 attribution data indicating a type of a compression of said
 compressed digital audio data to an external apparatus

See
Fig 10

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connected thereto from said external recording medium, and receives digital audio data from said external apparatus and transfers digital audio data and attribution data indicating a type of a compression of said compressed digital audio data to said external recording medium.

3. An audio playback/recording apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a protection processing section for performing protection processing of said digital audio data.

4. An audio playback/recording apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said protection processing section comprising an encryption section which encrypts said digital audio data, a decryption section which decrypts encrypted digital audio data, an authorization data generation section, which generates authorization data sent to said external apparatus connected to said general-purpose interface circuit section, and an authorization data verification section, which verifies authorization data sent from said external apparatus connected to said general-purpose interface circuit section.

5. An audio playback/recording apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said protection processing section comprising an encryption section which encrypts digital audio data, a decryption section which decrypts encrypted digital audio data, an authorization data writing section which writes authorization data into digital audio data transferred to said external apparatus connected to said general-purpose interface circuit section, and an authorization data extraction section which extracts authorization data from

digital audio data received from said external apparatus connected to said general-purpose interface circuit section.

6. An audio playback/recording apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said authorization data writing section writes said authorization data within a header information section of said digital audio data.